

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1306

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize Denise Sims on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those invaluable public servants who facilitate the legislative process by assisting members in their elected duties; and

WHEREAS, Denise Sims, executive secretary for Representative Raumesh Akbari, is one such estimable legislative employee, who is taking a much-deserved retirement on May 31, 2018, after a distinguished career with the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sims has provided dedicated and efficient service since becoming a member of the legislative staff in December 1996 for the 100th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious twenty-year career, she has served as a resolution writer with the Office of Legal Services (1996-1997), a research analyst with the House of Representatives (1997-1999), the director of the Research Division of the House of Representatives (1999-2010), and an executive secretary, assisting Representative Lois DeBerry (2012-2013) and Representative Raumesh Akbari (2014-2018); and

WHEREAS, prior to her work with the General Assembly, Ms. Sims served as a reporter, anchor, and producer at WREG-TV in Memphis from July 1973 to April 1990; for many years, she wrote, produced, and served as anchor of a local weekly news magazine, eventually rising through the ranks to serve as assistant director of Public Affairs (1979-1984) and director of Public Affairs (1985-1990); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sims worked as a freelance writer and producer from April 1990 to December 1996, during which time she was commissioned to produce and edit several biographical tape pieces for local events; worked on local crews on independent film and tape

projects; and wrote and produced a number of political ads for radio and television; a supremely gifted writer, she is also the co-author of the cookbook *Our Mother's Table*; and

WHEREAS, Denise Sims has also contributed her time and numerous talents to the Greater Memphis Area YWCA, which she served as a board member; the Executive Committee of the Research Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures, representing Tennessee as a member; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Sims was listed in *Outstanding Young Women in America* in 1986, received the *Black Achievers In Industry Award* from the Harlem Branch of the YMCA for her outstanding service as an employee of the *New York Times* Broadcasting Company, was honored for her work on various local documentaries and video biographies, and received recognition as the Employee of the Year for the House of Representatives in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Denise Sims exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Sims has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of her colleagues and legislators alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Denise Sims our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.